North-East border and inter-country trade issue and to report on trade opportunities and manufacturing potential for export in the North East.

8. The Government has also sanctioned two Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) in the North Eastern States of Meghalaya and Assam.

Annual accounts and reports of FIEO

2155. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Indian Export Organisation held their annual general meeting on 29th May, 1998 to consider and pass annual accounts and annual reports for the year 1996-97 for laying on the Table of the House.

(b) what are the reasons for delay and whether any punishment or displeasure was communicated to FIEO;

(c) whether the President of FIEO has publicly announced on 29th May, 1998 in the above meeting to hold the next annual meeting before 30th September, 1998 to consider annual accounts and annual report for the year 1997-98; and

(d) if so, whether Government will ensure that this last date of next annual general meeting will be observed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Managing Committee of FIEO decided to invite Prime Minister of India to innugrate the Annual General Meeting of FIEO for the year 1996-97. Prime Minister could bot spare the time to innugrate the AGM and hence the delay. Ministry of Commerce has written to FIEO to hold the AGM within the specified time and also intimated the concern for delay.

(c) and (d) President, FIEO indicated in the 32nd Annual General Meeting held on 29th May, 1998 that efforts would be made to hold the next Annual General Meeting in due course. Government has directed FIEO to hold the AGM within the prescribed time.

Decanalisation to Boost Mica Export

2156. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy of decanalisation was adopted in 1990 to boost up mica trade, to give more employment and to earn more foreign exchange;

(b) if so, details of the result achieved on each point since decanalisation; and

(c) whether there has been any review of the policy, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While export of processed mica has declined after decanalisation (except in 1996-97), export of canalised mica scrap, cuttings and waste has increased. Export figures of processed mica and mica scrap for the last four years are enclosed. Statement *(See below)*. As regards employment, mica mining industry has sharply declined from 835 mines employing 25000 labour to 35 mines employing 2500 labour.

(c) The proposal for revival of mica industry has been engaging the attention of the Ministry. The proposal was reviewed in March, 1998. Various options to boost mica exports have been under consideration of the Ministry in consultation with the concerned Ministry/Departments. Efforts to increase exports including unit value realisation; and en-

suring a good price to the producers are being made.

Statement

Export of Processed Mica

Years	Quantity (KGs)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1993-94	1.580	716
1994-95	1.350	617
1995-96	1.299	540
1996-97	5.304	814

Export of Canalised Mica Scrap

Years	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1993-94	4.573	744
1994-95	5.854	909
1995-96	7.443	1.181
1996-97	8.641	1.422

Production, Consumption and Export of Mica

2157. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the production, consumption and export of mica during the last ten years with year-wise break-up;

(b) whether there is any slump in the world trade of mica in this period; and

(c) the contribution of MITCO in production, trade and giving employment in the same period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Sir, the details regarding production of Mica Crude and Waste & Scrap, and consumption are given in the enclosed Statement. *(See* below). The exports during the last ten years is an under:—

Year	Exports (Incl. Powder, Waste & Scrap) (Quantity in tonnes)
1987-88	38095
1988-89	47788
1989-90	39253
1990-91	42591
1991-92	34882
1992-93	27743
1993-94	33751
1994-95	30074
1995-96	33776
1996-97	29360
1997-98*	30001

*Provisional

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sir, erstwhile, MITCO (now Mica Division of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, MMTC) set up in June 1973 is the canalising agency for export of Mica scrap, Mica blocks, splittings and films. However processed mica was decanalised in October 1990 but Mica scrap and factory cuttings/waste continue to be canalised. MITCO had started incurring losses since 1987-88 and was referred to BIFR during 1991-92. BIFR sanctioned Rehabilitation cum Amalgamation/Merger Scheme for revival of the Company. In terms of this scheme, MITCO was merged with MMTC and is functioning as the Mica Division with 425 employees.